

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

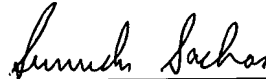
Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

The present Preliminary Amendment is submitted to cancel the multiple dependencies in the claims without prejudice.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423
Attorneys of Record

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)
SNS:smi

I:\ATTY\SNS\255204\255204US-PR.DOC